

## **ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

*NEWSLETTER September 2020*

**There will be no Thursday evening or Friday morning meetings of the Society until further notice. The President writes:**

Fellow Members

I hope this note finds you all well and managing life despite the limitations of lockdown.

You are probably aware that the Church Hall, planned to open in late August, still awaits a reduction in lockdown to 1m social distancing – the same level at which your committee proposes to re-start our Thursday evening meetings. However, the re-introduction of local lockdown in Aberdeen has considerably set back any local reduction from 2m in social distancing.

With further spikes in Covid-19 elsewhere in Scotland, the virus may be here for some considerable time. We shall need to respond promptly to changes in viral activity, and so our normal reliance on a seasonal programme will require to be supplemented by “virtual meetings” and other activities. For example, our latest committee meeting took place using Zoom – other societies make presentations to as many as 120 people – and some members have shared short presentations of new material by email. We also need to manage a virtual 2019-20 AGM before the end of September.

Please let Chris Jefferies know of any ideas for early in the season. Meanwhile, stay safe and enjoy the autumnal weather!

Best Regards

Michael Hart  
President APS

**Congress 2022.** Members will be aware that the Society was approached by ASPS requesting that we host Congress 2022, as no other society had volunteered. In the January Newsletter, I reported that the committee was considering the request. In fact, the committee went on to agree to the request, but this decision has been overtaken by the covid19 situation. Following the cancellation of Congress 2020, the committee decided to approach Perth PS, the host society of Congress 2020 to suggest that we would be pleased to stand down as hosts of Congress 2022, if Perth would like to step in. The offer was made in the knowledge that Perth PS had done all of the work involved in preparing for Congress and had expressed the hope that all their hard work would not be entirely to no avail. Our offer was gratefully accepted, so we will not be hosting Congress 2022.

**Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies report.** Delegates were shocked to learn that the Secretary and Treasurer, Alan Watson, died on 27 February. On 11 March, Colin Caskie of the Perth PS and current President of ASPS convened a ‘steering group’ meeting of delegates with responsibilities in respect of Congress, to deal with immediate business in relation to the forthcoming Congress in April which Alan Watson would have dealt with. At that meeting, Norman Kelso (Dundee & District PS) agreed to act as Interim Secretary of ASPS and George Henshilwood (Caledonian PS) agreed to act as Interim Treasurer. Immediately following Alan Watson’s funeral on 14 March, the steering group reconvened. In the

deteriorating covid19 situation, the decision was taken to cancel Congress 2020 which had been scheduled for 17-18 April.

On 3 June, the steering group circulated a series of recommendations to all ASPS delegates concerning the arrangements for holding Congress in 2021, including the change-over of Presidency from Perth PS to Kirkcudbright PS who are due to host Congress 2021. Also proposed was the separation of the roles of Secretary and Treasurer and the appointment of the two interim office bearers in those new posts with all other office bearers to remain in post. Several administrative proposals were also included. All of these recommendations were ratified at an AGM held on 9 July using video conferencing (zoom). In an opening statement at the AGM, the retiring President, Colin Caskie, wished it to be known, particularly among the Members of Aberdeen PS, that Perth PS were very grateful for the offer by Aberdeen PS that they stand down in 2022 in favour of Perth PS.

**Congratulations** to David Macdonald on being entered into The Danish Philatelic Federation's Blue Book, a list of philatelists who have made important contributions to Danish Philately. This is in respect of David's research and publication on an aspect of Denmark postal stationery.

Not many of us go to London for STAMPEX twice a year. This year a **Virtual Stampex** will be more accessible to most of us. The show will be open for 24 hours per day for three days on 1-3 October 2020. Apart from participating dealers offering their wares, there will be talks, displays and other events. Registration for Virtual Stampex was officially live on Saturday 1 August. To sign up for the show follow the link: <https://stampex.vfairs.com>

Prior to the cancellation of LONDON 2020, the Philatelic Traders Society prepared a 64-page '**Collector Handbook**' which they intended to be given to everyone attending the exhibition. The Handbook contains details of all of their members, of course, but it also contains a number of short articles on subjects such as '180 Years of the Penny Black' and 'Auctions of the Future'. The PTS is giving away copies to collectors who request a copy. Contact them through the PTS website and request a copy to be mailed to you, post free.

I see that **Royal Mail** has starts to advertise new issues, not in the philatelic press, but in national newspapers such as The Times. This is presumably aa response to Royal Mail stamp sales plunging at 9% per year though I suppose it might attract a few new collectors.